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All POL/SITREP's for this site			DUPONT LA PORTE				Printer Friendly Version		
LA PORTE, TX - EPA Region VI									
POLREP #1									
Initial Report									
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY									
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT									
DUPONT LA PORTE - Removal Polrep									
Initial Removal Polrep									
									
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY									
Region VI									
Subject:		POLREP #1							
		Initial Report							
		DUPONT LA PORTE							
		LA PORTE, TX							
		Latitude: 29.7025520 Longitude: -95.0378698							
To:									
From:		Jhana Enders, OSC							
Date:		11/15/2014							
Reporting Period:									
1. Introduction									
1.1 Background									
Site Number:		Contract Number:							
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:							
Response Authority:		Response Type:							
CERCLA		Emergency							
Response Lead:		Incident Category:							
PRP									
NPL Status:		Operable Unit:							
Non NPL									
Mobilization Date:		Start Date:							
11/15/2014		11/15/2014							
Demob Date:		Completion Date:							
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:							
ERNS No.:		State Notification:							
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:							
1.1.1 Incident Category									
Emergency Response									
1.1.2 Site Description									
The DuPont LaPorte facility is located on 800 acres north of Highway 225, east of Houston, Texas. The property also includes four other tenant companies. Principal products manufactured at the DuPont LaPorte location include: PTMEG intermediates; Elvanol® polyvinyl alcohol resins; crop protection; and fluorochemicals.									
1.1.2.1 Location									
12501 Strang Road, LaPorte, Texas									
1.1.2.2 Description of Threat									
Chemical release of Methyl Mercaptan resulting in four fatalities, one injury, and a shelter in place for the facility.									
1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results									

At approximately 0330 hours on 15 November 2014, a valve failed in the Lannette Unit resulting in the release of Methyl Mercaptan, a chemical used in two insecticides that are manufactured at the facility. Officials at the facility confirmed the release and notified emergency responders, including CIMA (Channel Industries Mutual Aid). The National Response Center (NRC# 1101100) was notified at approximately 0615 hours.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Upon arrival at the incident at 0917 hours, the EPA team began documenting site activities. An air monitoring team consisting of personnel from Harris County Pollution Control Services (HPCPS) was located west of the facility along Sens Road. According to HPCPS, readings were non-detect beyond the perimeter of the facility. Plant personnel along with members from the responding agencies conducted air monitoring inside the facility. A command post was set up within sight of the unit and a unified command was established.

An all-clear was given at 1006 hours and the shelter in place was lifted for plant personnel with the exception of the hot zone located in the Lannette Unit. Pressure readings of greater than 9 psi (pounds per square inch) inside the reactor in the unit and the presence of methyl mercaptan prevented emergency response personnel from entering the unit. Normal psi for the reactor is 2. Incident command continuously monitored the situation until a recovery plan was in place.

A shelter in place was reactivated as a safety precaution within the facility at approximately 1415 hours. At 1500 hours, plant personnel began venting the six valves located in the Lannette Unit in an effort to relieve the pressure within the lines. The valves were vented one at a time allowing the material to flow through the scrubber system and into the incinerator. Three valves were successfully vented and the pressure was reduced to 6.2 psi before issues involving a block in the system halted the process. Pressure inside the unit held at 6.2 psi and the shelter in place was lifted at approximately 1645 hours.

A recovery team consisting of emergency responders (one Dupont, four Harris County HAZMAT, two CIMA) made entry into the unit at 1739 hours. Entry personnel removed the four decedents from the hot zone by 1830 hours. After conducting decontamination, the decedent's remains were released to the Harris County Forensics Investigation team.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The EPA team responded to the incident location and integrated into Unified Command.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

DuPont is the responsible party.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

The EPA team will attend the Operations Briefing at 1000 hours on 16 November 2014.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

US EPA
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

CIMA (Channel Industries Mutual Aid)
Harris County Hazardous Materials Team

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
US Coast Guard Houston Sector
Harris County Forensics Investigations
Harris County Pollution Control Services

4. Personnel On Site

US EPA OSC Jhana Enders and two START personnel.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.

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